REPORT OF COMMITTEE

ON

STATISTICS

OF THE

Schuylkill Valley

MANUFACTURERS.

Philadelphia:

James B. Chandler, Printer, Nos. 306 and 308 Chestnut Street,

1868.

Philadelphia, February 10th 1868.

To M...

The following Bill, which will seriously affect the interests of all Manufacturers, whose works are situated along the River Schuylkill or its affluents, has been presented to the State Legislature, and it will become a law unless immediate action be taken in the matter by those whose interests are at stake:

An act relative to the Schuylkill water as follows:

"That if any person or persons shall hereafter wilfully take, lead, conduct, carry off, throw or empty, or shall cause to be so taken, in that part of the Schuylkill river between the Norristown dam at Norristown, and the Flat Rock dam, any carrion or carcass of any dead horse or other animal, or any excrement or filth from any slaughter house, vault, well, sink, culvert, privy or necessary, any offal or putrid or noxious matter from any dye house, still house, tan yard or manufactory or mill; any refuse from any coal oil refinery, gas works; or any other noxious matter or liquid whatever calculated to render the water of said river impure, every such person or persons shall, for each and every such offence, forfeit and pay a sum not less than $100 nor more than $1000; and the penalties imposed by the first section of an act to protect the property of the mayor, aldermen and citizens of Philadelphia at Fairmount, and to preserve the purity of the Schuylkill water, approved February 7th, 1832, for the commission of the offences therein mentioned, shall be hereafter not less than $100 nor more than $1000. The amount of penalty in each case within the limits aforesaid at the discretion of and recoverable in the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the offence shall be committed, and all suits for any penalty or penalties, provided for in this act, or in the act to which this is a supplement, or any other act supplemental to the original act, shall be brought in the name and for the use of the city of Philadelphia.

"That no length of possession whatever shall be available to bar or prevent the correction or removal of any nuisance existing or which may hereafter exist, at or near that part of the Schuylkill which is between the dam at Flat Rock and the dam at Fairmount."

You are Respectfully invited to attend a Meeting of Manufacturers, to take into consideration the above Subject—AT MASONIC HALL, MANAYUNK, ON THURSDAY THE 13TH INST., at 3½ o'clock P. M.

SEVILLE SCHOFIELD,
DAVID WALLACE,
A. CAMPBELL,
WILLIAM SIMPSON,
JOHN DOBSON,
DUNCAN WHITE,
ROBERT KERSHAW,
STANLEY LEES.

MEMORIAL

TO THE

Senate and House of Representatives

OF PENNSYLVANIA.

J. B. CHANDLER, PRINTER, 306 & 308 CHESTNUT STREET.

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MEMORIAL.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania.

At a large meeting of Manufacturers held at Manayunk, the 13th day of February, 1868, in relation to the Bill introduced in the House by Mr. Adair, respecting the use of the Schuylkill river from the Norristown Dam to the Fairmount Dam, a Committee on Statistics was appointed, who made report at an adjourned meeting on the 20th February, which was unanimously approved and adopted, and directed to be sent to the Legislature, as a Protest against the passage of said Bill.

The report of said Committee is as follows :

Your Committee, immediately after their appointment, sent printed Circulars with interrogatories to the Manufacturers who will be affected by the passage of said bill, the answers to which have enabled us to present the following reliable Tabular Statement :

LIST OF MANUFACTURERS BETWEEN FAIRMOUNT DAM AND NORRISTOWN DAM.

Number of Factories.	Description of Manufacture.	Number of Hands Employed.	Families.	Annual Value of Product.
9	Paper Manufactures.....	688	380	$2,745,000
2	Chemical Works	127	115	1,650,000
1	Print Works.....	119	78	225,000
5	Machine Works.....	255	188	385,000
53	Cotton & Woollen Textile Fabrics.	6708	3135	12,120,972
2	Oil Works.....	18	18	150,000
3	Flour.....	23	9	450,000
12	Iron.....	1346	968	5,365,000
2	Soap.....	8	6	40,000
2	Gas Companies.....	70	60	205,000
	Total.....	9,362	4,957	$23,335,972

Seven establishments having neglected to furnish the desired information, your committee are obliged to *estimate*, and their operations we believe will swell the number of hands employed to 10,000 persons, of dependent families to 5,000, and the aggregate value of productions to twenty-four millions of dollars per annum.

From statistics considered reliable, it is generally conceded, that for every Million Dollars of Annual production, one and a half million dollars are required to be permanently invested in Mills, Machinery, dwellings, &c., &c., which would give about thirty-six millions dollars as the value of the property now in danger of being seriously affected by the proposed bill.

Thus you will observe that Ten thousand hands are now threatened with loss of employment, and Thirty thousand persons dependant thereon, would be deprived of their present means of support, thirty-six millions of dollars worth of property entirely destroyed or vastly depreciated in value, and the annual product of twenty-four millions of dollars be diverted to other sections of the country, to the serious disadvantage both of our State and City. Your Committee, base their estimate of Thirty thousand persons dependant for their support upon the business now threatened with destruction, upon the usual data, that is, for every member of a family employed, there are three who are dependant upon one employed. Hence besides the Ten thousand hands employed, Thirty thousand others, making a grand total of Forty thousand, would be deprived of their means of support, be driven from their homes and pursuits, and forced to seek employment elsewhere.

We can hardly estimate the effect upon the adjacent agricultural districts, of thus depriving the farmers of Montgomery, Chester and Bucks counties of this great market for their products, becoming annually a source of increasing wealth to all the farmers in that region. Nor can we estimate the effect upon the business interests of the city of Philadelphia, of this threatened destruction of a large amount of Taxable property, and the diversion to other markets, of products now particularly controlled in our city, and an important element of its prosperity.

Your Committee are fully persuaded there is no other river in the world, one hundred miles in length, that drains a country so supplied

as the Schuylkill Valley, with all the resources essential to the development of a great Manufacturing district. Its Water Privileges, Railroads and Canals, bringing unlimited supplies of Coal, Iron, Lime, Lumber and Stone, its rich Valleys of Lebanon and Chester, the very garden of our State, capable of supplying most abundantly all the wants of the great industrial population, would, if undisturbed, make the Schuylkill Valley second to none in the Union, in wealth and prosperity.

We have ascertained and shown from actual statistics, that the vast sum of thirty six millions of dollars, is directly invested in Manufacturing, in the first sixteen miles of the Schuylkill Valley, and that a population of Forty thousand depend for their means of livelihood, upon its pursuit. We leave you to judge of the vast extent of collateral interests, both in the country and city, which are to be affected most fatally by the proposed legislation.

At present nineteen twentieths [95 per cent.] of all the impurities thrown into the river from sewers and factories are from sources below the Flat Rock Dam. While the river forms the natural drain, it is proposed to substitute for it a costly and extensive sewerage, of very doubtful success. Whilst on the other hand, it has been suggested, to secure for the use of the Fairmount Water Works, an ample supply of unquestionably pure water for supplying the pumps and basins, by laying a large Iron Main Pipe from the Flat Rock Dam to Fairmount, and using the river only to drive the wheels which force pure water into the reservoirs.

This latter plan would entirely and perfectly overcome all objections as to the purity of our Fairmount water, for many years; it is simple and effective, and as its cost can be accurately estimated, it could easily be made ample and secure, leaving undisturbed the great manufacturing interest.

The Committee leave the question of an increased supply of water to be determined as the necessities and development of the city may require, without detriment to the industry of the Schuylkill Valley, which is as essential to the growth and prosperity of the city, as the supply of pure water to the health of its inhabitants.

The great importance of the interests involved and the practicability of achieving the desired result with greater certainty and at less expense, demand the exercise of extreme care, that the greatest good may be attained with the least injury to the large population which are dependant upon the Schuylkill Valley.

Your Committee assert without hesitation, that no artificial drainage can ever be efficiently substituted for the natural bed of the Schuylkill River, and that from the Sewers of Manayunk, from the Towpaths and Roads along the shores, from the drainage of the vast cemeteries on its Banks, from the Gutters of City Streets and the Canal Boats constantly passing along the river, there is a vastly greater amount of filthy animal matter thrown into the River, than from all the operations of manufacturing establishments.

Your Committee therefore recommend that an earnest appeal be made to the Legislature to protect us in the pursuit of our avocations and forbid any interference therewith, on any doubtful experiments to purify the Schuylkill River, instead of securing a supply of pure water free from the possibility of contamination.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. SIMPSON,
A. CAMPBELL,
MARTIN NIXON,
E. S. TOMLINSON,
ROBERT KERSHAW,
JOHN WOOD.

MANAYUNK
Montgomery County
SCHUYLKILL
FALLS OF SCHUYLKILL
SETTLING RESERVOIR
PETERS ISLAND
PROPOSED PARK
PROPOSED PLAN
FOR SUPPLYING THE
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
From Flat Rock Dam,
Without interfering with the Sewerage of the City, or the immense Manufacturing interest located below said Dam.
A: Settling Reservoir, large enough to supply the City with CLEAN WATER, while the is disturbed with Freshets.
B: Blue line showing Iron Tunnel, to convey the water from Reservoir supply the Pumps at Fairmount, the wheels to be driven as at present by the river.
Red Line showing Proposed Park Line.
Proposed Carriage Road
Scale 1000 feet to one Inch
NB This Drawing goes to the End of Manayunk Canal, the Water at that Point being the same as at the Dam.
FAIRMOUNT
PARK